

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, IZ

SUBJECT: US-IRAQ ISSUES: (VI) SUMMARY AND OVERVIEW

REF: A) BAGHDAD 898

B) BAGHDAD 900

C) BAGHDAD 919

D) BAGHDAD 920

E) BAGHDAD 921

1. SUMMARY: IN THE COMING U.S. - IRAQI CONTACT AT UNGA, THE EFFORT TO MAKE IRAQIS SEE MERIT IN OUR APPROACH TO PALESTINE AND TO PEACE IN THE REGION IS THE CRUX OF PROGRESS. WE CAN SWEETEN THE BITTER PILL OF COMPROMISE ON PALESTINE BY EASING OUR RESTRICTIONS ON ARMS SALES AND BY INDICATING A WILLINGNESS TO TAKE MORE IRAQI OIL. IF THERE IS NO PROGRESS, WE FALL BACK ON A WORKABLE STATUS QUO. END SUMMARY.

2. IN REFS A-D USINT HAS SURVEYED FOUR MAIN ISSUES BETWEEN USG AND GOI JUST PRIOR TO PROPOSED MEETING AT UNGA BETWEEN SECRETARY KISSINGER

AND FOREIGN MINISTER HAMMADI. THE ISSUES ARE PALESTINE, THE SINAI, ARMS SALES AND OIL. IN REF E, WE DESCRIBED THE STATUS QUO IN OUR RELATIONS AS IT NOW IS AND IS LIKELY TO REMAIN IF CONFIDENTIAL

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THERE IS NO PROGRESS ON THE POLITICAL FRONT IN THE UNGA CONTACT.

3. GOI, AND APPARENTLY, SYRIA, USSR AND PALESTINIANS APPEAR TO BELIEVE THAT PROPOSED PRESENCE OF AMERICAN CIVILIAN TECHNICIANS IN SINAI CONSTITUTES ACCORD'S MOST VULNERABLE ASPECT. GOI HAS BEGUN TO MOBILIZE A PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN FOCUSING ON PRICISELY THIS POINT WITH A MASSIVE PROTEST MARCH IN 110 DEGREE HEAT THROUGH DOWNTOWN BAGHDAD ON SEPTEMBER 4TH. THE SINAI ACCORD IS HUMILIATING FOR IRAQ'S BAATH PARTY LEADERSHIP FOR IT LAYS BARE THE INABILITY OF THE ARABS TO MAKE PROGRESS AGAINST ISRAEL WITHOUT GREAT POWER INTERVENTION. THE SINAI ACCORD, FURTHERMORE, SHOWS THAT EGYPT, MOST POWERFUL OF THE ARAB STATES, IS PLEASED WITH THE U.S. SPONSORED "STEP-BY-STEP APPROACH TO PEACE WHICH BAGHDAD REJECTS AS PART OF AN OVERALL U.S. PLOY DESIGNED TO SELL THE PALESTINIANS DOWN THE RIVER.

3. THIS IS THE SETTING FOR PROPOSED US-IRAQI CONTACTS AT UNGA. A BREAKTHROUGH TO A CONTINUING DIALOG ON POLITICAL ISSUES IS POSSIBLE. IF THE USG ATTITUDE TOWARDS RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS IS PRESENTED IN BEST POSSIBLE LIGHT AND IF MAJORITY OF IRAQ'S REVOLUTIONARY COMMAND COUNCIL SUBSEQUENTLY CAME TO BELIEVE WE MEAN WHAT WE SAY, THE MINIMUM NECESSARY COMMON POLITICAL BASIS FOR DISCUSSION WILL HAVE BEEN LAID. EVEN THE IRAQI COMMUNISTS AND LEFT-WING BAATHISTS MUST PAUSE AND REFLECT IF THEY ARE MADE TO BELIEVE THAT COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. HOLDS OUT MORE FOR IRAQ'S PALESTINIAN CLIENTS THAN DOES ANY ALTERNATIVE. TO BELIEVE THAT THE US CAN DO MORE FOR THE PALESTINIANS, THE GOI MUST FIRST BE CONVINCED THAT PALESTINIAN BELLIGERENCY WILL SURELY FAIL AND WILL ULTIMATELY DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD TO THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE. THE GOI DOES NOT SO BELIEVE AT THE MOMENT AND IT WILL TAKE MORE THAN ONE MEETING TO CONVINCE THE LEADERSHIP.

4. IF WE HAVE TO FORCE THE BITTER MEDICINE OF COMPROMISE ON PALESTINE UPON THE IRAQIS WE DO NOT LACK THE SPOONFUL OF SUGAR TO MAKE THE MEDICINE GO DOWN. THE IRAQIS WANT U.S. WEAPONRY AND ADVANCED MILITARY TECHNOLOGY. THEY WANT TO SELL US THEIR OIL. THEY KNOW THAT IT WOULD BE EASIER TO PERSUADE MAJOR U.S. CONTRACTORS TO BECOME ACTIVE IN IRAQ IF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

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WERE NORMAL.

5. FINALLY, IF THE COMING UNGA CONTACT FAILS TO PRODUCE POLITICAL PROGRESS, WE ARE LEFT WITH A MODERATELY COMFORTABLE AND WORKABLE STATUS QUO OF WHICH TRADE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ARE THE MAIN COMPONENTS.

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